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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 03740 221458Z

15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /071 W
---------- 009613
R 221330Z SEP 76
FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8051
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, TU
SUBJECT: DISK PROTEST STRIKE ENDS AS LEGAL ACTION
TAKEN AGAINST LEADERS

REF (A)ANKARA 7175 (B) ISTANBUL 2675 (C) ISTANBUL 3671

1. PROTEST STRIKES BY AFFILIATES OF DISK LABOR CONFEDERATION
WERE CALLED OFF SEPTEMBER 21, AND MOST WORK SITES AFFECTED
APPEAR BACK TO NORMAL IN ISTANBUL AREA. MEANWHILE NEWSPAPERS
REPORT THAT LOCAL COURT HAS ISSUED WARRANTS FOR ARREST OF DISK
PRESIDENT KEMAL TURKLER AND FIVE OTHER MEMBERS OF DISK
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZING
ILLEGAL WORK STOPPAGE. POLICE ARE REPORTED TO HAVE RAIDED
DISK HEADQUARTERS EARLY MORNING SEPTEMBER 21 AND SEIZED
RECORDS OF CONFEDERATION WHICH MAY BE PERTINENT TO CHARGE
OF ORGANIZING ILLEGAL STRIKE. DISK GENERAL SECRETARY MEHMET
KARACA WAS ARRESTED YESTERDAY AND IS PRESENTLY IN CUSTODY
WHILE TURKISH RADIO REPORTS THAT TURKLER AND OTHERS SURRENDERED
TODAY. NEWSPAPERS ALSO REPORT THAT DISK MEMBERS
WERE ARRESTED SEPTEMBER 20 AT PLANTS HIT BY PROTEST STRIKE
IN ISTANBUL AREA; FOUR AT KARTAL AND TEN AT IPRAS
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PAGE 02 ISTANB 03740 221458Z

REFINERY. REPORTEDLY A NUMBER OF WORKERS WERE FIRED AT IPRAS

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FOR THEIR ROLE IN ILLEGAL WALK-OUT

2. AUTOMOBILE CARAVAN ORGANIZED BY DISK SEPTEMBER 18 TO PROTEST RECONSTITUTING STATE SECURITY COURTS (SSC) WAS PEACEFUL AFFAIR CONDUCTED UNDER HEAVY SECURITY BY POLICE (REF C). MARCHES PLANNED SEPTEMBER 20 AND 21 FOR SAME PURPOSE DID NOT MATERIALIZE, HOWEVER, POLICE WERE ON HAND IN FORCE AT TAKSIM SQUARE IN CENTER OF CITY WHERE THEY WERE TO BE STAGED.

3. ALTHOUGH HE SUPPORTS OPPOSITION TO SSC'S, RPP MAYOR OF ISTANBUL AHMET ISVAN AT BEGINNING OF WEEK CALLED FOR END TO GARBAGE COLLECTOR'S STRIKE BECAUSE OF HEALTH HAZARD IT WAS CREATING. DISK AFFILIATED GENEL IS GARBAGE WORKERS SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED TO JOB MORNING SEPTEMBER 21, AND BURGEONING TRASH HEAPS EXTENDING INTO STREETS OF ISTANBUL ARE GRADUALLY BEING CLEARED AWAY.

4. COMMENT: TURKISH AUTHORITIES ARE OBVIOUSLY HAVING NONE OF DISK'S ATTEMPT TO MASK PROTEST STRIKES AGAINST SSC'S AS NATIONAL MOURNING (FOR WHICH PARTICIPATION LEFT TO CONSCIENCE OF INDIVIDUAL WORKERS). ARREST AND SUBSEQUENT PROSECUTION OF DISK LEADERSHIP, HOWEVER, WILL KEEP POT BOILING AND COULD RPOVIDE DISK "MATYRS" AS RALLYING POINT FOR FURTHER PROTESTS. POSSIBLY AGGRAVATING SITUATION, OTHER EMPLOYERS FOLLOWING IPRAS EXAMPLE MAY FIRE WORKERS FOR THEIR ABSENCE FROM JOB DURING PROTEST STRIKES, WHICH DISK UNLIKELY TO LET PASS WITHOUT OPPOSITION. ISTANBUL WORKERS' PARTICIPATION IN DISK ORGANIZED PROTEST WAS SUBSTANTIAL WITH MAJOR PORTION OF AREA'S INDUSTRIAL PLANTS TAKING PART. BATJER

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